

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 /097 W
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R 181322Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2713
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM POST CLAIMS STATE DEPARTMENT SEEKS TO WHITEWASH
SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION RECORD

1. AUGUST 16 JERUSALEM POST QUOTES "QUALIFIED SOURCES" IN THE
STATE DEPARTMENT AS HAVING DISPUTED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S
STATEMENT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, THAT SOVIETS HAD INCREASED THE
RATE OF EXIT PERMITS GRANTED SO FAR IN 1976 OVER RATE IN 1975.
ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES THE 1975 AND 1976 RATES REMAINED
ESSENTIALLY THE SAME, AND WERE OF COURSE FAR BELOW THE 1972 AND 1973
RATES.

THE SOMEWHAT HIGHER FIGURES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 WERE SAID
TO HAVE BEEN CITED IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFEND THE HELSINKI ACCORD
AND TO SHOW THAT THE WEST IS DERIVING SOME BENEFITS FROM IT.

2. THE POST ARTICLE FURTHER SAID THAT THE BASIS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT'S JUDGMENT WAS THE FACT THAT, AT THE ANNUAL RATE FOR
JANUARY-JUNE, ABOUT 13,000 JEWS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE
USSR IN 1976 AS COMPARED WITH 12,000 IN 1975. HOWEVER, THE POST
ARGUES THAT AN INCREASE OF 1,000 PER YEAR OR
4500 DURING

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THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 HARDLY REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT

CHANGE OF POLICY, BUT SIMPLY MAY REFLECT AN ACCIDENT OF MONTHLY FLUCTUATIONS. OCCASIONALLY THE SOVIET UNION SUDDENLY ISSUES AN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE NUMBER OF VISAS, THUS AROUSING HOPES THAT THIS REFLECTS A NEW LIBERALIZED POLICY. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENTLY THE NUMBER OF VISAS DECLINES AGAIN, AND THE HOPES AROUSED BY THE EARLIER INCREASE ARE QUICKLY DASHED.

3. THE POST ARTICLE CLAIMS FURTHER THAT THE NUMBER OF EXIT PERMITS GRANTED DURING JULY AND AUGUST ARE ALREADY REFLECTING A DECLINE, WITH THE JULY FIGURE HAVING DROPPED TO BELOW 1,000 PER MONTHS. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER 12,000 OR 13,000 JEWS EMIGRATE THIS YEAR, THE OVERALL RECORD WILL STILL LOOK POOR IN COMPARISON WITH THE 1972 AND 1973 FIGURES OF OVER 30,000.

4. AGAIN QUOTING THE "STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES" THE POST SAYS THAT THE JEWS NOW LEAVING THE USSR REPORT AN INTENSIFIED ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN AND GROWING HARASSMENT RATHER THAN AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ATMOSPHERE. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S ASSERTION THAT THE EMIGRATION SITUATION HAD IMPROVED DOES NOT APPEAR JUSTIFIED.

TOON

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